

Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko, Vice Chairs Senator Slap and Representative Palm, Honorable members of the Environment Committee:

I am urgently asking the Committee to SUPPORT HB5293 with an amendment, and to OPPOSE SB244.

Thank you for raising a long overdue bill HB5293 prohibiting the use of wild and exotic animals for entertainment which will protect elephants, camels, lions, bears, tigers and other exotic species from being exhibited in traveling entertainment shows.

I think we, as a society have come to realize that keeping wild animals confined for purposes of doing tricks for entertainment, often "taught" with very punitive measures, is cruel and unnecessary. . Rhode Island, California, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and 161 jurisdictions across the U.S., including Stamford and Bridgeport, have passed restrictions on wild animal acts. In 2017, Ringling Bros. ended 146 years of coercive and inherently inhumane wild animal acts. I believe my enlightened State should do so as well.

Also, please support an amendment on line 33 to remove "includes any animal that is not domesticated". That language may be perceived to exempt wild animals born, bred and raised in captivity.

SB244 should be opposed as it opens the door to the unregulated hunting of any species perceived to be interfering with agricultural crops at any time. Is this really a backdoor approval of a bear hunt? The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection already has the authority to remove and kill wildlife that damage property. That authority, coupled with a comprehensive public education program that instructs effective protection of crops, personal property and livestock is the safest alternative for the public at large.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kathleen Sullivan
11 Gun Mill Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002